

NEWPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2012

1. Call to order: President Mary Ambrogi called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. in the Rotary Board Room of the Newport Public Library.

Attendance: Mary Ambrogi, Jennifer Booth, Lynn Ceglie, Carol Cummins, Paul Gaines, Girard Galvin, Robin Skuncik Jones, Susan McCoy, Justin McLaughlin, Marriam Ring and library director Regina Slezak.

Paula Dugan, Head of Children's Services, was also in attendance.

Excused: Gail Alofsin, Dorianne Farzan, David Gordon, David Reed

Absent: Eileen Hadfield, William Harvey, Lesley Thurston

2. Amendment to the agenda:

There was one change to the agenda. Under the heading New Business, the Baby Steps and the Library was moved to the beginning of the agenda.

3. Minutes of the April 19, 2012 meeting:

Susan McCoy asked for changes or additions to the minutes. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Jennifer Booth moved to accept the minutes of the April 19, 2012 meeting. Robin Skuncik Jones seconded the motion. Mary Ambrogi, Jennifer Booth, Lynn Ceglie, Carol Cummins, Paul Gaines, Girard Galvin, Robin Skuncik Jones, Susan McCoy, Justin McLaughlin, and Marriam Ring voted for the motion. There were no votes against. The vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

4. Finance Committee report:

Financial statements for April 2012 were reviewed at the Finance Committee meeting. Robin Skuncik Jones reported that income is above budget while expenses are below budget with just 2 months left in the fiscal year but partially it is a timing issue as some annual payments are at the end of the fiscal year. Utility bills are much lower this year due to lower electric rates and a mild winter.

Investments showed little change in April but are up 3.5% year to date.

5. Building and Grounds Committee report:

Regina Slezak reported that work on the HVAC system continues. Trane has been working on the coils that were lifted to the roof by crane last month. The crane will return in 2 weeks to finish delivery of coils and the system should be operational by the end of the month.

6. Long Range Plan Committee report:

Draft copies of the Long Range Plan were distributed to those who did not review it at the last meeting. Carol Cummins asked for a motion to approve. Susan McCoy made a motion to approve the Long Range Plan. Girard Gavin seconded the motion. Mary Ambrogi, Jennifer Booth, Lynn Ceglie, Carol Cummins, Paul Gaines, Girard Galvin, Robin Skuncik Jones, Susan McCoy, Justin McLaughlin, and Marriam Ring voted for the motion. There were no votes against. The vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

7. Financial Development Committee report:

Susan McCoy reported that the annual appeal received a \$17,246.50 and the event has \$18,310 in sponsors and contributions. A copy of the invitation was passed around for viewing.

8. Friends of the Library:

Marriam Ring reported that the Friends Annual Meeting is on June 14 from 3:30-5:00 pm. New officers and bylaws will be voted on. All board members are invited to attend.

The Friends Bookstore is setting up a satellite location at the Maritime Center on Thames Street. A bookcase will hold paperbacks, magazines and some hardcover books, all for \$.50 each.

9. Director's Report:

In addition to her written report, Regina Slezak reported that the

chicks from Chase Farm have hatched and went back to the farm. Patrons enjoyed coming into the library or watching on their computers via webcam as the chicks hatched.

The library has purchased a half page ad in the Summer Guide in the Newport Daily News and Providence Journal to advertise the Summer Reading Programs.

The library has submitted a grant to the Champlin Foundations to purchase a new vehicle to replace the aging Bookmobile.

Regina reported that a patron has been ejected from the library for 5 days for harassing staff members. The patron reported to the police that she was pushed by a staff member but video surveillance proves otherwise. Regina reported that the patron has been calling police, city hall and board members to plead her case.

10. New business:

a. Baby Steps and the Library:

Paula Dugan, Head of Children's Services, reported on the Baby Steps project that targets young families with pre-school children. Sessions are held monthly at the Florence Gray Center and last about three hours. Sessions are age appropriate with emphasis on reading and being ready to learn when entering kindergarten.

b. Staff Day

Regina Slezak requests that the library close on Wednesday, June 27th for the annual staff day. A vote will be taken at the June meeting.

11. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25. The next meeting is scheduled on June 21, 2012.